



BIRCHLER ARROYO
ASSOCIATES, INC.

May 11, 2005

The Honorable Kevin Elsenheimer
State Representative
S1389 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Elsenheimer:

I am writing to express my full support for HB 4398, unification of the State's zoning enabling acts. As you are aware, this bill is important because it creates a single zoning act by consolidating the Township Zoning Act, City and Village Zoning Act, and County Zoning Act into one. The legislation proposes no substantive changes to existing law; it unifies the three existing acts into one.

This bill will benefit local governments, citizens, and developers by establishing a more uniform set of procedures related to zoning. For example, currently there is inconsistency between notice requirements for zoning amendments based upon whether you live in a township or city. This makes no sense and is confusing to the public and the development community.

A few of the major benefits of unification are noted below:

- ♦ One zoning enabling act instead of three;
- ♦ Fewer pages to read, search or duplicate;
- ♦ Common public hearing notices requirements;
- ♦ Improved citations and more cross references; and
- ♦ Easier to understand language and terms.

This bill will lead to more efficient government at the local level. It will also enhance state government by making future amendments less cumbersome (only one bill to vote on instead of three).

I urge the House of Representatives to act quickly to consider this bill and move it through the legislative process so those who work with zoning at the local level can benefit from the legislation.

Sincerely,

Rodney L. Arroyo, AICP
Vice President

cc: Andrea Brown, AICP, Executive Director, Michigan Association of Planning

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Planning Communities and Transportation Systems